

Message Text

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21

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3510

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 24899

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP, FR

SUBJECT: QUAI OFFICIAL EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER RENEWED
REPRESSION IN SPAIN

REF: (A) PARIS 24763; (B) PARIS 24608

1. SUMMARY: SENIOR QUAI OFFICIAL CONCERNED MEDITERRANEAN AFFAIRS HAS EXPRESSED TO US ON PERSONAL BASIS HIS DEEP CONCERN OVER POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR SPAIN, AND ITS RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AND THE REST OF EUROPE, OF CONTINUATION CURRENT "RETURN TO REPRESSIVE TACTICS."
END SUMMARY.

2. QUAI DIRECTOR MEDITERRANEAN AFFAIRS GELADE VOLUNTEERED FOLLOWING APPRECIATION CURRENT SITUATION IN SPAIN IN COURSE TOUR D'HORIZON SEPTEMBER 24 WITH EMBOFFS. AL-
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THOUGH HE STRESSED PURELY "PERSONAL" NATURE THIS ASSESS-

MENT, WE REPORT IT IN FULL SINCE IT IS PROBABLY NOT FAR FROM GENERAL VIEW CURRENTLY HELD IN QUAI.

3. GELADE BEGAN BY EMPHASIZING THAT HE HAD NO SYMPATHY FOR TERRORISTS IN SPAIN OR ELSEWHERE. ON OTHER HAND, HARSH, ARBITRARY AND TOO FAR-REACHING GOS RESPONSE TO RECENT SHOOTINGS IS LIKELY TO CREATE MUCH GREATER PROBLEMS THAN IT SOLVES. FRANCE HAS FOR MANY YEARS ATTEMPTED TO HAVE AN UNOBTUSIVE MODERATING EFFECT ON FRANCO REGIME FOR FRENCH DOMESTIC, FOR BILATERAL AND FOR BROADER EUROPEAN REASONS. QUAI HAD THOUGHT THAT SUFFICIENT HEADWAY HAD BEEN MADE IN SPAIN, PARTICULARLY IN LAST FEW YEARS, TO RELEGATE PAINFUL MEMORIES OF THIRTIES TO THE PAST, AND TO PAVE WAY FOR SMOOTH SUCCESSION AND EVOLUTION IN SPAIN. RETURN NOW TO UNNECESSARILY HARSH REPRESSION AT VIRTUAL END OF FRANCO'S REIGN HAS ONCE AGAIN PLACED SPAIN'S POLITICAL FUTURE IN DOUBT FOR SEVERAL REASONS.

4. FIRST, GELADE ARGUED, RENEWED REPRESSION CAN ONLY HELP UNDERMINE RELATIVE STABILITY ALREADY ACHIEVED AND MAKE SPAIN MORE VULNERABLE TO EXPERIENCE PORTUGAL IS JUST GOING THROUGH. SECONDLY, FRANCO MAY NOW BE LESS WILLING TO RELINQUISH POWER, AND HANG ON UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE. EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, SITUATION PUTS JUAN CARLOS IN IMPOSSIBLE POSITION. SINCE HE CANNOT EASILY DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM FRANCO'S CURRENT ACTIONS WITHOUT ENDANGERING ENTIRE SUCCESSION ARRANGEMENT, HIS PRESENT SILENCE IS BOUND TO TAINT HIM IN AND OUTSIDE OF SPAIN. AS A RESULT HE WILL BE INHERITOR OF, RATHER THAN LIBERATOR FROM DIVISIONS SURROUNDING FRANCO HIMSELF. AS NEW, UNTRIED RULER THIS WILL MAKE JUAN CARLOS EVEN MORE VULNERABLE TO HEAVY OPPOSITION THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE THE CASE AND COULD RESULT IN RENEWED, DEEPLY UNSETTLING EXPERIENCE FOR SPAIN.

5. PRESENT SITUATION IS ALSO CREATING MAJOR DIFFICULTIES FOR OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING FRANCE. APART FROM STRONG DOMESTIC REACTION HERE (REFTEL A), TASK OF ASSOCIATING SPAIN WITH EUROPE BECOMES EVEN MORE DIFFICULT.

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CULT. FOR ALL THESE REASONS, GELADE SAID, HE WAS PERSONALLY MORE PESSIMISTIC THAN HE HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME, PARTICULARLY SINCE HE DID NOT REALLY EXPECT GOS TO MODERATE ITS RESPONSE TO LEVEL OF THE POLICE PROBLEM IT ACTUALLY FACED.

6. ASKED WHAT FRANCE WAS DOING, GELADE CONFIRMED THAT, AS ELYSEE HAD ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY, GOF HAD AGREED TO

ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH EC-NINE APPEAL WHEN MADE, SINCE
ITS OWN DISCREET EFFORTS IN MADRID HAD BEEN REBUFFED
(REFTEL B). GELADE DID NOT EXPLAIN WHEN OR HOW SUCH
APPEAL WOULD BE MADE.
RUSH

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